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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 57/134 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the thirty-first edition of the handbook entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 11 June 2002 to 1 April 2003, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/134 of 11 December 2002.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 56 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the aforementioned resolutions:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

Holy See.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Antigua and Barbuda

7. In a note verbale dated 20 February 2003, the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that because of the proximity of Montserrat to Antigua and because of the volcanic eruptions in the Emerald Isle, many Montserratians have fled to the Antiguan unit of Antigua and Barbuda. Correspondingly, the population of Antigua and Barbuda has increased by 5 per cent. In the process, Antigua and Barbuda has fully integrated Montserratians in the society of the twin-island State and since Montserratians do not need work permits to work in Antigua and Barbuda, they compete with the people of Antigua and Barbuda for jobs and their children reap all national benefits.

8. The concept of scholarship has to be seen in its broadest sense, as the Government of Antigua and Barbuda had to open and reopen certain school structures to accommodate the increased numbers in its school system caused by the entrance of the Montserratian students. Those students benefit from free education from primary through secondary school and are eligible for government scholarships to the University of the West Indies and to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. In addition, the students fall under the Medical Benefits Scheme and are recipients of the country's expanded health system. In reality, Antigua and Barbuda provides for Montserratians all the benefits of its education system at absolutely no financial cost.

Argentina

9. In a note verbale dated 28 March 2003, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Office of the Secretary-General of the following views of the Government of Argentina:

> "The Malvinas Islands were registered by the United Kingdom as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. This registration is a consequence of the illegal British occupation of the Argentine territory that occurred in 1833.
>
> "The United Nations has, on many occasions, indicated that the colonial dispute existing between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning these territories should be resolved through peaceful negotiations.
>
> "Without prejudice to this and since the islands form part of the national Argentine territory, its inhabitants enjoy — just like the rest of the Argentine population — the benefits of the National Scholarship Programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic."

Mexico

10. In a note verbale dated 2 April 2003, the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that as a part of the multilateral programmes which offer scholarships for foreigners, the Government of Mexico has a specific programme for students from the Non-Self-Governing Territories which can be consulted on the electronic page http://www.becas.sre.gob.mx. The programme includes offers of scholarships for students and teachers who wish to

study Spanish and Mexican culture at the Foreigners Teaching Center of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. It also includes scholarships for studies in a specialty or for a Master's degree or Doctorate or to carry out high-level doctoral research with tutorials and doctoral stays at academic institutions.

Sweden

11. In a note verbale dated 3 April 2003, the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the majority of scholarships offered to foreign students for studies in Sweden are open to competition for citizens from all countries, including students from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Both the Programme Office (the coordinating body for scholarships of the Swedish International Development Agency) and the Swedish Institute offer such scholarships.

12. So far no scholarships have been granted to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories owing to the fact that no applications have been received from such Territories. Consequently, Sweden has not yet established any academic cooperation with those Territories. However, that does not preclude the existence of bilateral cooperation between Swedish educational centres and some of those Non-Self-Governing Territories.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

13. In a letter dated 7 April 2003, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom transmitted to the Secretariat details of scholarships funded by the United Kingdom to enable students from its Overseas Territories to take higher education courses in the United Kingdom.

14. In 2002-2003 there were no scholarships awarded to scholars from Anguilla, Bermuda, Pitcairn, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Falkland Islands. The table below shows all awards starting in 2002. Some of the scholarships are for more than one year.

15. The United Kingdom has also set up the Montserrat Emergency Award Scheme, established in October 1997 in response to the volcanic crisis. The purpose of that scheme is to provide short-term assistance to Montserratians who had been forced to leave the island as a direct result of volcanic activity and the emergency situation at the time. From 1997 to 2003 the scheme has successfully helped 286 students to undertake higher education studies. Eighty-three of those students are currently studying in the United Kingdom.

Scholarships for scholars from Non-Self-Governing Territories

	Territory				
Type of scholarship	*British Virgin Islands*	*Cayman Islands*	*Montserrat*	*St. Helena*	*Grand total*
Chevening Scholarships	2	1	3	1	7
Chevening centrally funded scheme	1				1
Commonwealth Scholarship/ Fellowship Plan	2		1		3
Technical cooperation training			2	14	16
Grand total	**5**	**1**	**6**	**15**	**27**

III. Applications made through the United Nations

16. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

17. Between 5 June 2002 and 11 April 2003, the Secretariat received no requests from students for information on the availability of scholarships.

IV. Conclusion

18. **Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.**

Notes

[1] The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 53/63, 54/86, 55/140, 56/68 and 57/134.

[2] For the most recent reports, see A/53/262 and Add.1, A/54/267, A/55/81 and Add.1, A/56/88 and A/57/90 and Add.1.